

Twelve High School Students will Compete to be Named Delaware's Poetry Out Loud State Finalist

Students from twelve Delaware high schools will participate in the Poetry Out Loud state finals at the Smyrna Opera House on Wednesday, March 6 at 7 p.m. The event is free and the public is invited to attend. The winner will receive \$200 and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, DC, to compete in the national championship April 28-30, 2013 where \$50,000 in cash prizes and school stipends are awarded.

Each of the twelve participants will recite poetry that they have selected, studied, and practiced, representing poets including Walt Whitman, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Paul Laurence Dunbar, and Maya Angelou. The recitations are inspiring, moving, animated, sometimes humorous, and always engaging. The 2013 participants are:

Tina Abah, Christiana High School
Kathleen Becker, Red Lion Christian Academy
Daria Chicosky, Padua Academy
Chelsea Finch, St. Elizabeth High School
Hannah Glavin, Wilmington Christian School
Kate Goorland, Ursuline Academy
Joylynn Mbua, Pencader Charter High School
Jordan McMillan, Sanford School
Pratigya Paudel, Dover High School
Idalis Stamas, Polytech High School
Zipporah Ushery, Brandywine High School
Ryan Youngdale, Mount Sophia Academy

To learn more about the individual students and insights into

their reasons for participating in the program, [read their biographies](#).

Liane Hansen, prominent American journalist and Emmy Award-winning radio personality of National Public Radio's (NPR) "Weekend Edition Sunday," will be the Mistress of Ceremonies. Adjudicators include The Honorable Donald A. Blakey, Linda Blaskey, Theresa Bennett, Kim Graham, and David Stradley. They bring their personal and professional experience as poets, educators, artists, actors, and directors to judge the participants on physical presence, voice and articulation, appropriateness of dramatization, level of difficulty, evidence of understanding, overall performance, and accuracy.

The Delaware Division of the Arts sponsors the Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest program in Delaware schools and the state finals. Competition begins at the classroom level in the fall and culminates with the state finals each spring. Twenty-seven schools, 102 teachers and 3,035 Delaware students participated in the Poetry Out Loud program in the current academic year.

In February, a semi-final round narrowed the field to our twelve finalists. Students from AI DuPont High School, Appoquinimink High School, Cab Calloway School of the Arts, Caravel Academy, Concord High School, Delmar High School, Glasgow High School, Seaford High School, St. Mark's High School, St. Thomas More Academy, Tall Oaks Classical School, and Urban Promise High School participated in the semi-finals.

The Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest competition is presented in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation. For more details about the partnership and program, [click here](#).

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